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EDITOR'S CORNER

After I publish the next issue of Jerseyana, I intend to resign as Editor. Any one interested in taking over this job should contact me or one of our Officers.

Many Thanks and Apprcciation to Archie Black for his excellent "Tuna Club" article, in color, provided at his expense. Thanks also to David Gladfelter for his continuous supply of articles.

Al Zaika

JERSEY VIGNETTES

David D. Gladfelter, NLG

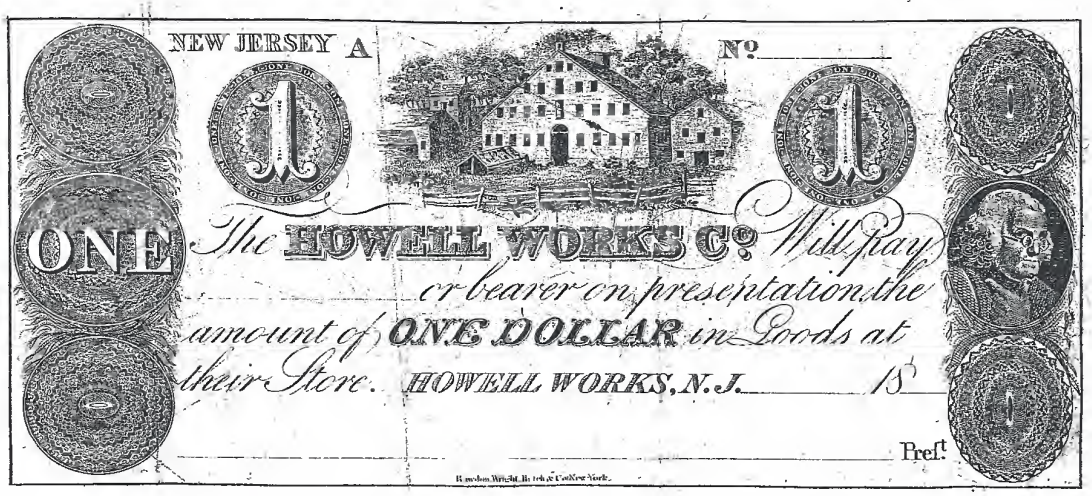


Fig. 1: Howell Works Company $1.00, Wait 833 (R6).

Most banks that issued circulating notes during the obsolete paper money era, as well as the issuers of private merchant scrip during that period, chose to decorate and embellish their currency with stock vignettes kept on hand by the engraving and printing firms that supplied the notes. These stock vignettes included a variety of subjects intended to portray general aspects of the local economy, such as farming, industry, the frontier, rail and sea transportation, handcrafts and mechanical inventions. For an excellent discussion of this topic see the paper "An Historian's View of the State Bank Notes: A Mirror of Life in the Early Republic," by the late Elvira Clain-Stefanelli in America's Currency, the proceedings of the 1985 Coinage of the Americas conference published by the American Numismatic Society.

However, a minority of Jersey note and scrip issuers commissioned specially-engraved vignettes depicting particular local scenes and people. One of my favorites is that of the Howell Works iron furnace, appearing on all nine denominations of notes issued by that firm in the early to mid-1830s [Fig. 1]. The furnace is now gone but the village is preserved as Allaire State Park. This might be a good place to correct an error in an earlier article on the Howell Works notes appearing in a 1997 issue of Jerseyana. Based on the Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson imprint on the $3,00, $5.00 and $10.00 denominations I made the assumption that the notes were printed after the works shut down in 1846. However, the RWH&E imprint was also used briefly in 1835, a more likely date of issue. The lower denominations have the Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Co. imprint used from 1832 to 1834.

Fig. 2 depicts a North Jersey scenic attraction, the Falls of the Passaic at Paterson. The original vignette was engraved in 1815 by Peter Maverick for the scarce $100.00 denomination of the first series of notes of the Paterson Bank. The State Bank at Newark note depicting

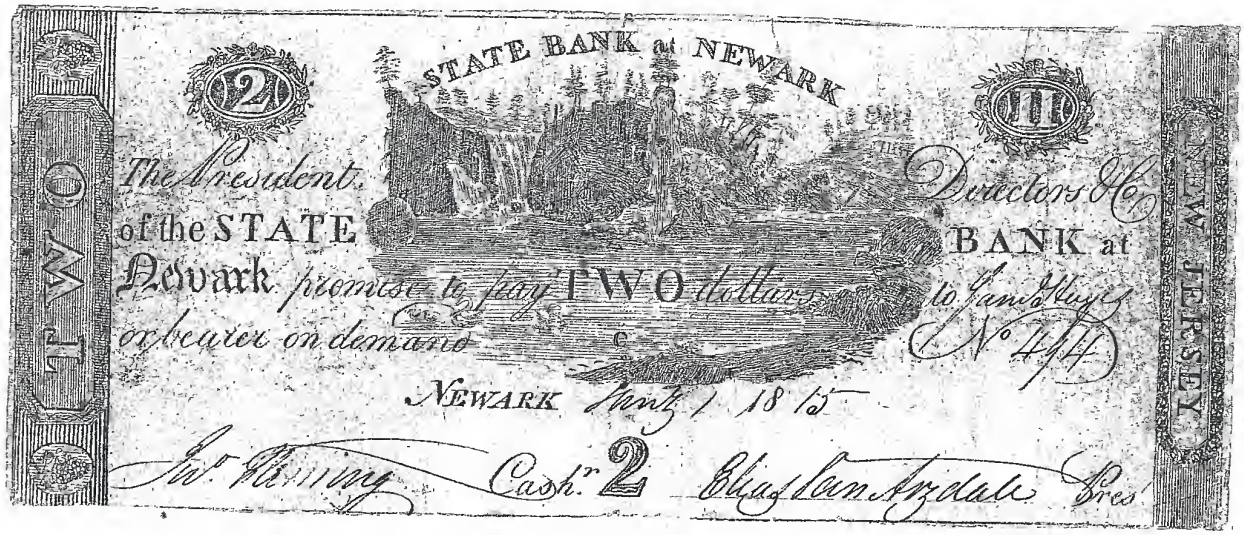


Fig. 2. State Bank at Newark $2.00 (counterfeit). Wait 1558 (R7).

the falls is an early counterfeit, dated the same year, and is even rarer, listed by Wait from a description in Bicknell's Counterfeit Detector. This note is ex Joe DeMeo.

The final note [Fig. 3] shows another vanished Jersey landmark, the old five-span covered bridge over the Delaware River at Trenton. It too is a counterfeit of a vignette originally engraved by William Harrison of Philadelphia. In her book The Trenton Story published in 1958, Eleanore Nolan Shuman tells us that this toll bridge was opened to traffic with much fanfare in 1806. "Constructed of heavy planks and iron rods, the floor was prevented from swaying by wing arches and diagonal braces. Like most of the bridges of that era, it was a covered bridge with a roof of cedar shingles and enclosed sides, simply pegged together without benefit of nails. At both ends it displayed elaborate arched doorways. A total of 1,008 feet in length, the bridge cost $180,000 to erect." Rails were later laid across the bridge, and a fire caused by a locomotive spark caused the roof to be removed. The bridge was dismantled in 1876. The present stone railroad bridge dates to the 1890s and the present steel "Trenton Makes" highway bridge, on the site of the 1806 bridge, was built in 1928.

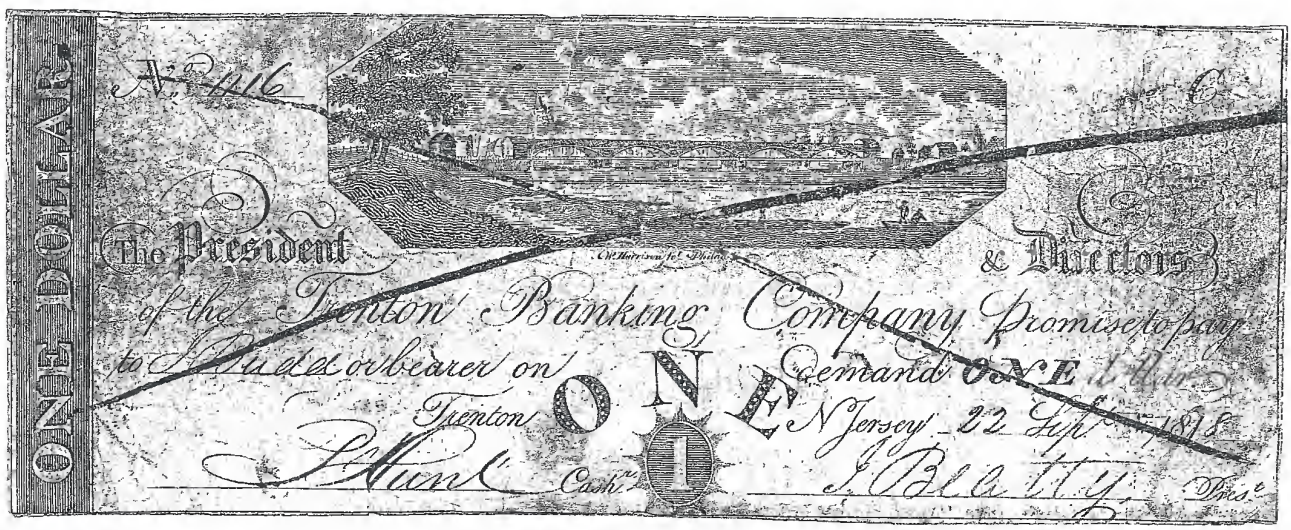
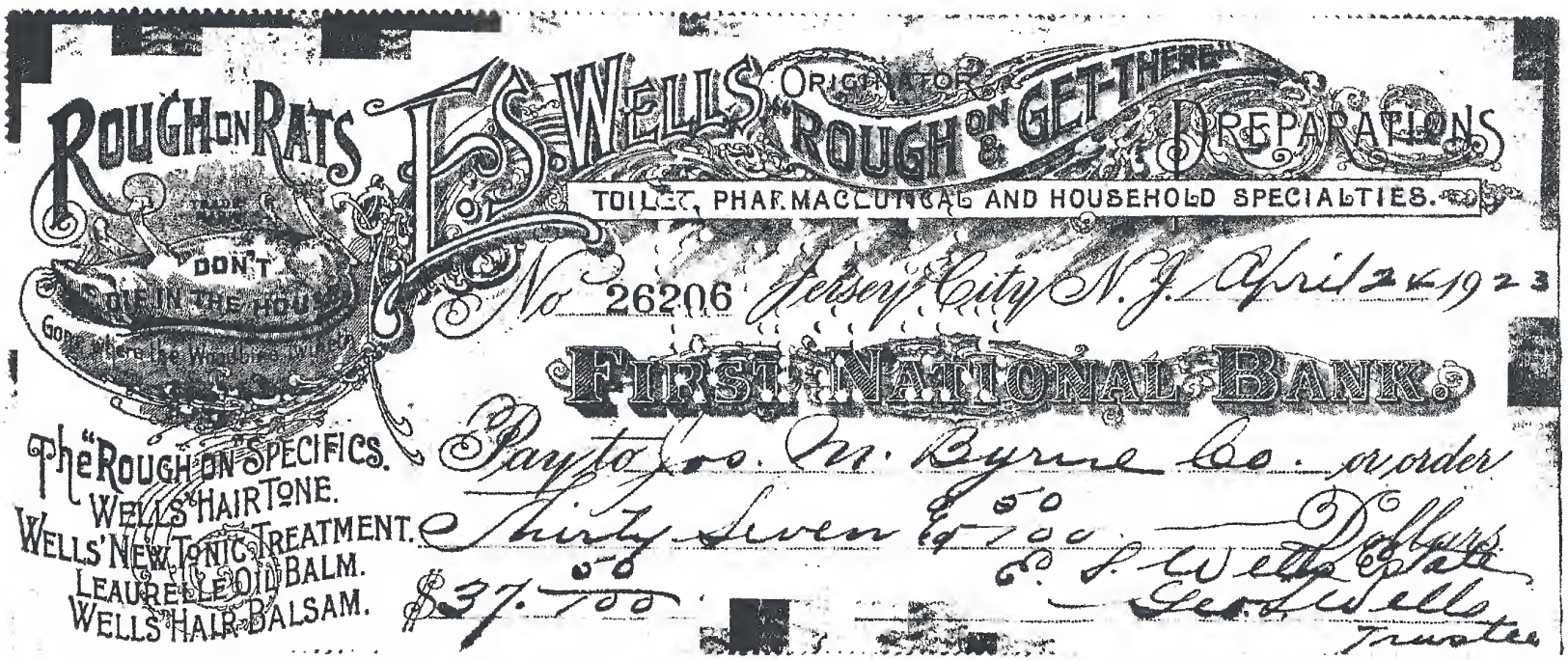


Fig. 3. Trenton Banking Company $1.00 (counterfeit). Wait 2391 (R6).

This is one of my favorite checks. Issued by F.S. Wells, Jersey City, N.J., manufacturer of chemical products. The great graphic of the expired rat, attests to the potancy of the "Rough On Rats" potion.

A.Z.



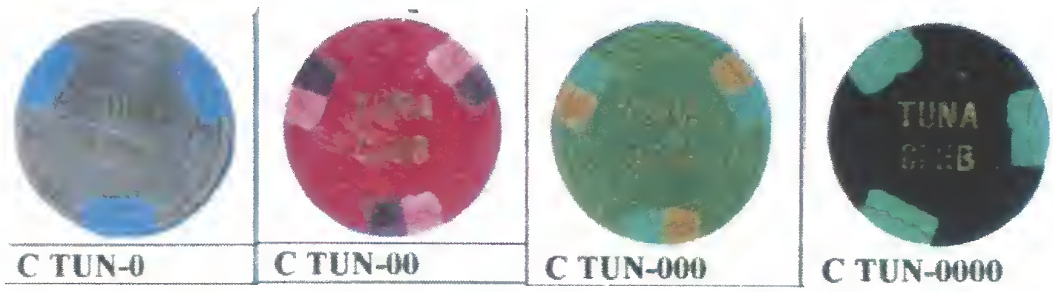
ATLANTIC CITY TUNA CLUB

By Archie Black

The Tuna Club was located on Massachusetts Avenue and Gardner's Basin in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The club at one time during the 1920's had the distinction of being known as "The Largest Fishing Club in the United States". Besides being a social and fishing club, the club was noted to have promoted illegal gambling as one of its activities for its membership. Atlantic City was the only city in the United States that widely ignored the prohibition laws regarding the sale of alcohol as well. While other U.S. cities had their discreet speakeasies, Atlantic City did it openly … with protection from the local police department and politicians.

Several variations of Tuna Club gambling chips are widely collected by members of the Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club (CC&GTCC) … especially those chip collectors who specialize in Atlantic City casino chips.

Below are a few known examples of chips from this legendary club.



This 78-year old commemorative medal below was discovered at a local yard sale just this past year by one of the Atlantic City Chapter members of Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club. It is one of two of the only such medals among chip & token collectors that I am aware of but I'm fairly certain that there must be others around … especially in the Atlantic City area.

This medal illustrated below was issued in 1926 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of this popular social and Fishing Club and was struck by the Whitehead & Hoag Co. of Newark, NJ. Another similar medal, but holed, was recently brought to my attention by NJES member Rocco DiGiacomo (see illustration at right). This specimen has been holed and a number 1057 has been punched, probably at a later date. Possibly used with a key chain for a locker; or a room?

My wife, Brenda, found an interesting original framed poster at an Absecon, NJ flea market that hung at one time inside the famous Tuna Club, outlining the Rules of Conduct that members were expected to abide by. Among just a few of the more humorous rules (by today's politically correct standards) that are published on the poster are the following:

3. *"Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests while on the premises".*
4. *"Ladies are not permitted in the Club House AT ANY TIME unless accompanied by a member."*
5. *"Ladies are not permitted in the BAR ROOM AT ANY TIME."*
8. *"Ladies are not permitted in the Club House after 4 p.m. on the days of club meetings. Club meetings are held on Friday evenings during June, July, August and September. Club meetings are held the balance of the year on Tuesday evenings. (I wonder what went on up on the second floor? You don't suppose that gambling was taking place, do you?)*
13. *"No member or guest will be permitted to carry fish into or through the Club rooms".*
14. *The breaking of any of the above rules can be cause to have your Club membership revoked.*

*The Tuna Club building (now demolished) was once owned at one time by Resorts International Hotel & Casino before legalized gambling was approved by the New Jersey voters in 1976 and before its demolition only a few short years ago to make room for new homes being built on the property in the current rapidly improving, formerly run-down, neighborhood. The Northeast Inlet area has recently been transformed to one of the nicest residential areas in Atlantic City.

AN INTERESTING BIT OF EXONUMIA FROM NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

ALUMINUM, ACTUAL SIZE.

FIRST DAY COVER, MENLO PARK, N.J., 1954.

Wanted: Items related to the old Jersey City Stadium, (AKA) Roosevelt Stadium, and Roosevelt Stadium in North Bergen/Union City, NJ. George Dorsey, 168 E. Spring Valley Ave., Maywood, NJ 07107

Wanted: Encased cents and other coins, engraved coins, pop-outs, scenic love tokens, hobo nickels, potty dollars, just about anything made from coins. Send for my offer or call me at 407-352-7807. Bob Slawsky, PO Box 864, Windermere, FL 34786.

Dog License Tags: If you do not read ***PAW PRINTS***, you do not know dog license tags. Complimentary copy on request. Bill Bone, Editor, 928 S.R. 2206, Clinton, KY 42031.

Ocean County: Collecting and Researching all Ocean County obsolete and broken banknotes and merchant scrip. Want anything from Toms River 1850 to 1960, also notes issued in Bricksburg 1840's, Manchester 1840's....BUY - SELL - TRADE. Bob Mitchell, 2775 S.E. Eagle Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984-8919.

Wanted: Tickets, Transfers, Photographs, and any other items related to streetcars or busses in Scranton, Pa. Charles Wrobleski, 206 Green Street, Clarks Green, PA 18411.

Wanted: Both BPOE and IBPOEW tokens and medals. Write first describing and pricing your items. J.M. Boswell, PO Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054.

Wanted: Edison collector seeks Thomas Edison memorabilia, esp. medals, tokens, and souvenirs. Please write with full description and price. Also interested in first and second-hand accounts of Mr. Edison and his legend. George Skic E-Mail: mercerhill@peoplepc.com.

Wanted: Large 73mm Lucky Souvenir penny (Indian Head) with swastikas in the headband. E-mail gptokens @worldnet.att.net or write Gary Patterson, 10-4th St. Manchester, NJ 08759.

Wanted: New Jersey mining tokens and other exonumia related to mining activities in NJ, especially NJ Zinc Co. Please send a description of what you have. Frank Steimle, PO Box 465, Allenhurst, NJ 07711.

For Sale: Old copy of a 1932 Campbell Soup Tomato Contract, along with 3 different picker tickets, from the John Gallagher farm in Mt. Laurel. The farm fell to development in the 1970's. The contract measure approximately 10"x23" $10.00 folded, $12.50 rolled. Dennis P. Helmer, 112 Carlton Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108.

All kinds of tokens for sale or trade, send your want lists. Wanted; arcade, Minneapolis pinball token and "cuds" on modern U.S. coins. Joe Steger, 585 Diagonal Rd., Apt #106, Akron, Ohio 44320-3071.

For Sale: Ocean County Coin Club, 33rd Anniversary Souvenir Card, depicting Toms River banknote, $2.00 postpaid. Also available is a wooden flat for the same event, $1.00 and SASE, Jim Majoros, 65-16th St., Toms Rivers, NJ 08753.

Wanted: Bronze medal issued by the ocean County Girl Scout Council to commemorate the completion of their new headquarters in Toms River, NJ. Al Zaika, PO Box 65, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0065.

Free updated amusement token listing via e-mail for DE, NC, NJ, NY, PA, SC, TN, VA, and WV or available burned onto a CD_ROM in Microsoft Word format for $5 postpaid. E-mail RDSchopp@aol.com or write to Bob Schopp, 16 Sanbert Circle, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690-2510.

PA Token Trading Meeting. The next meeting of the Bucks County TAMS will be the first Saturday of each month, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 5. The meetings will be for buying, selling, or trading of tokens or medals, as in the past. The meetings will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Bensalem Library, 3700 Hulmeville Road, near Hulmeville, PA. NJES members are welcomed to meet with us. For directions e-mail RDSchopp@aol.com or write me at Bob Schopp, 16 Sanbert circle, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690-2510.

Will buy, swap or correspond on WW-I service medals issued by States, Counties, Cities or Towns. Lou Small, Box 1926-J, Jacksonville, FL 32245-9262.

Wanted: Quaddy Moccasin Wooden Nickels, showing City and State. I am also interested in weird and unusual tokens. Please list what you have for sale, Thank you. Jerome J. Panfil, 3124 So. 47th St., Milwaukee, WI 53219-4609.

N J E S ANNUAL MEETING !

Our meeting will be held at the GSNA Convention on May 15, 2004.
Meeting time will be announced at the convention.

Subway token fades into history

The New York City subway token officially became history yesterday, as the tram between Roosevelt Island and Manhattan switched to Metrocards.

The change is part of an effort to connect the tram more closely with the rest of the transit system, officials said.

Tokens were phased out on buses and subway trains in April and May 2003, but the Roosevelt Island Tramway continued to use them. Commuters wishing to transfer from a train or bus had to pay an additional fare when boarding the tram. The switch to Metrocards will allow riders to transfer to the tram for free.

Wire reports

News item from Jim Majoros.

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